of approximately US$100 million for post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Afghanistan.

(c) and (d) There has been widespread support in the international community to India's viewpoint on the future government structure in Afghanistan and need to establish a broad based framework to address the evolving military-political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan Government has been in active touch with several countries on developments in Afghanistan. Several high level foreign dignitaries, including the Prime Minister of UK; US Secretary of State; Foreign Minister of Germany; Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia; Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran and Special Envoys on Afghanistan from France and UK and Special Envoy of Japanese Prime Minister, have visited India since 11th September, 2001 to discuss the evolving military-political situation in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister has also discussed this issue with his counter parts in several countries. India has also been closely involved in discussions in the United Nations on this subject and also attended the latest meeting of the Group of 21 countries on Afghanistan, held in New York on 16th November 2001. During his recent visits to Russia, US and UK, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vejpayee had also discussed the question of future government in Afghanistan with the leadership of those countries.

Discussions on International Terrorism and Developments in Afghanistan

512. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India recently, visited Russia, USA, UK and held discussions with their Heads, particularly, on developments in Afghanistan and present global campaign against international terrorism;

(b) if so, the details/outcome of his discussions; with leaders of these countries in India and abroad; and

(c) whether any agreements/declarations/MoUs have been signed with the above countries indicating the ones that are in favour of India's stand on Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan and other regional international issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) (i) *Russia:* Prime Minister paid a State visit to the Russian Federation from 4—7 November 2001.

During this visit, he had a one-to-one meeting with President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin followed by delegation level talks.

Prime Minister also met with Speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Mr. Gennady Seleznyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Igor Ivanov and Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Ivanov. Further, Prime Minister visited St. Petersburg where he met Governor of the St. Petersburg Regional Administration Mr. Vladimir Yakovlev.

Bilateral documents signed/issued during the visit covered diversified fileds and included, *inter-alia*, the Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism; and, Joint Statements on strategic issues and on international and bilateral issues.

During the meetings of the Prime Minister as also in the documents signed/ issued, the entire gamut of issues was covered. The subjects discussed in the bilateral arena ranged from cooperation in nuclear energy, science and technology to trade, economic cooperation and investment.

Amidst the regional and international issues discussed all the important topics of mutual interest figured. On Afghanistan, there was close similarity of views on the post-conflict government structure and rejection of any role for Taliban. The determination of the two sides to act in concert against international terrorism was reflected in the Joint Statement signed by Prime Minister and President Putin. the Russian Federation reiterated that it supports India, an influential member of the international community, as a strong and appropriate candidate for the permanent membership of the expanded UNSC.

Prime Minister's visit to Russia helped in expanding the areas of shared outlook and adding new elements in our strategic partnership.

(ii) *USA:*

Prime Minister paid an official working visit to Washington D.C. from 7—9 November 2001 at the invitation of President Bush.

In the Joint Statement issued at the end of their meeting, the two leaders noted that both India and the United States had suffered from terrorism, as seen in the barbaric terrorist attacks on 11 September in the United States and on 01 October in Jammu and Kashmir. They acknowledged that terrorism must be fought wherever it exists and agreed to further intensify India-U.S. cooperation in cmbating terrorism. The two sides had convergence of views on the political future of Afghanistan and have agreed to consult each other regularly on this subject, The United States acknowledged an active role for India in the consultations on the political and economic future of Afghanistan.

Prime Minister and President Bush reaffirmed their commitment to build on the momentum in the bilateral relations and complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations.

(iii) *UK:*

At the invitation of his British counterpart, Prime Minister visited the UK from 12-13 November for discussions with Prime Minister Tony Blair on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. The two Prime Ministers concurred on the urgency of ensuring a post-conflict political structure in Afghanistan before the military campaign ends and on the need for Afghanistan's reconstruction. They shared the view that the current international coalition against terrorism could not confine itself to dismantling the Al Qaeda network alone. Prime Minister emphasized that the global war against terrorism must also takcle all its sponsors who finance, train, equip and harbour terrorists. Appreciation was conveyed to the UK for proscription of six terrorist organizations earlier this year, under their Terrorism Act 2000. The British side shared information on the additional legislative measures to be introduced in their Parliament to curb international terrorism.

No agreements/documents/MoUs were signed during the visit.

Safeguarding interests of Indian Fishermen

513. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards recent decision of the Indian Ocean Rim countries regarding penalties against small scale fish workers for illegal fishing;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate amendments in the Convention on the Laws of Sea and Declaration of Inclusive Economic Zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures to be undertaken to protect rights of the fish workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was held in Muscat, Oman, on September 15-16, 2001. The report of the meeting has not yet been circulated to the IOR-ARC member States by the IOR-ARC Secretariat. Even after the report is circulated, it is to be approved by the Council of Ministers of the IOR-ARC, before its recomendations can be taken as constituting any decision on the part of the member States. The next meeting of